

Allan Hessel \* 18050 SW Arborcrest Court \* Beaverton, OR 97006

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

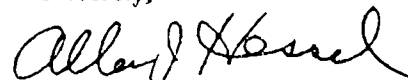
I am retired from a career in engineering. I have used a variety of computer systems, and I have found computing with Microsoft's Windows software to be easier, more affordable and in many way more productive than other systems. Windows has brought welcome uniformity to the way people work with computers.

It is certainly time to accept the settlement in the Microsoft antitrust case. The lawsuit was, in some ways, a big joke by Microsoft's less successful competitors intended to give Microsoft a raw deal in court. I am glad that you took the lead in directing your department to earnestly work with the mediator appointed by the new judge. The settlement will let the American computer industry get back to concentrating on making better, innovative products and maintaining America's leadership in the world of technology.

The anti-Microsoft forces have agreed not to pursue the outrageous and ridiculous demand made by a few of them to "divide and conquer" Microsoft. In return, Microsoft has agreed to give up much of its legal rights to its intellectual property and business practices. Until now, no company in antitrust litigation has ever had to give its industry the copyrighted software codes to the internal interfaces to its operating system programs. Nonetheless, Microsoft has agreed to license those codes to any party on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms. Microsoft will release companies that make computers from exclusive marketing agreements, allowing them to mix and match Windows with other operating systems. Also, even the largest equipment builders will be offered a uniform price and term list, instead of individual negotiations. The Windows desktop program included with installation will be made easy to remove and replace with those made by others, such as AOL Time Warner, which owns its own browser and internet messaging software. With government-sponsored engineers who are experts in software monitoring the agreement and investigating any complaints, the public can be assured of compliance.

Thank you for your support of the settlement. It should be approved, because it is in the best interest of the American public.

Sincerely,



Allan J. Hessel  
Hessel Properties Inc.